## Remarks/Arguments

The Office Action dated November 17 has been received and carefully studied.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner rejects claim 1, stating that it is unclear whether the "announce duration" is unrelated to the "announce delay". During a telephone interview with the examiner on January 18, 2006, the Examiner agreed that these two phrases were clear and well defined in the specification. In fact, the Examiner had defined each term in the office action, and therefore, there was no issue of indefiniteness. However, the applicant has amended the claim to terminate with a period, as suggested by the Examiner. Since there were no other prior art cited against claim 1, allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 2 and 3, stating that it is unclear whether the "announce duration" is unrelated to the "announce delay". During the telephone interview with the examiner on January 18, 2006, the Examiner agreed that these two phrases were clear and well defined in the specification. In fact, the Examiner had defined each term in the office action, and therefore, there was no issue of indefiniteness. However, upon review, the applicant has amended the claim 2 to correct potential issues of antecedent basis with respect to the terms "EUI" and "NEUI". Since no other prior art was cited against claims 2 and 3, their allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 4 and 7, stating that the terms "announce packet" and "own packet" are ambiguous and stating that in lines 5-6 of each claim, it is stated that the packet is discarded and then is propagated. These claims has been amended to better point out the invention and to make clear that, in the event of a predetermined condition, the EUI is updated and the packet is propagated, while in the absence of that condition, the packet is discarded. This is believed to eliminate any indefiniteness in these claims.

The Examiner rejects claims 5, 6, 8, and 9 stating that the word "comparing" is unclear as a predetermined condition. The applicant has reworded these claims to indicate that a particular result of the comparison is the predetermined condition, rather than the act of comparing.

The Examiner rejects claims 4,5,7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Scheel et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,910,090). The Examiner states that Scheel discloses a node receiving an announce packet, comparing the candidate master's EUI with the announce packet's EUI, updating the candidate masters EUI with the announce packet's EUI in the event of predetermined conditions, otherwise discarding the packet; propagating the packet.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The listener node of Scheel does receive a packet from a controller node. It then compares the packet's EUI to an EUI in its internal memory. However, Scheel does not disclose updating the EUI of the internal memory. Scheel only discloses the updating of NodeID in the internal memory. (see Column 9, lines 33-35) No mention is made of updating the EUI. Furthermore, while Scheel discloses that under certain conditions, the packet will be discarded, it discloses no circumstances under which the packet will be propagated, as described in the present

claim. Furthermore, although not believed necessary to overcome the prior art reference, amended claim 4 also requires that the switch test an ownership indicia. No such indicia exists in the nodes of Scheel. Therefore, allowance is respectfully requested for this 4, as well as the remained rejected claims which depend upon claim 4.

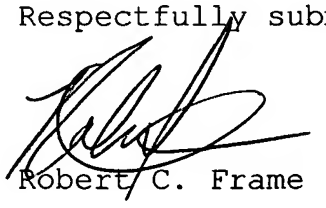
The applicant has added claims 10 through 12, which are dependent on claim 2. Since claim 2 is now believed to be in condition for allowance, these new claims are also believed to be allowable.

The applicant has also added claims 13 and 14, which are dependent on claim 4. Since claim 4 is now believed to be in condition for allowance based on the arguments above, these new claims are also believed to be allowable.

The applicant has added claims 15 through 17. Since these new claims are all dependent on claim 1, it is believed that these new claims are also allowable.

The prior art made of record has been carefully reviewed and it is believed that the remaining prior art has been properly not relied upon in rejecting any claim.

Respectfully submitted,



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